

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 143897
ORIGIN IO-03

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DRAFTED BY: IO/TRC:CHARTLEY:CMS

APPROVED BY: IO:ESWOPE

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R 211924Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS STATE 143897

FOR CLAY BLACK, SHIPPING ATTACHE (AND WALKER DIAMANTI)

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM ABIDJAN JUNE 20:

QUOTE UNCLAS ABIDJAN 6162

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, EWWT, IV

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE INITIATIVES ON MARINE OIL POLLUTION:
DELEGATION VISITS TO CAPITALS

REF: STATE 136668

1. AVERAGE SIZE OF TANKERS SERVING ABIDJAN IS 200,000 METRIC TONS (MT). OIL DISCHARGING FACILITIES ARE IN VRIDI CANAL, WHICH UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE SUPER-TANKERS. PRINCIPAL SUPPLIERS SAILING UNDER FRENCH, BRITISH, DUTCH AND U.S. FLAGS. TANKERS BRINGING IN REFINED PRODUCTS FOR IVORY COAST, UPPER VOLTA AND MALI AS WELL AS CRUDE FOR REFINERY (CAPACITY: 2 MILLION MT PER ANNUM; 1976 CRUDE REFINED: 1,666,000 MT). PLANS UNDER CONSIDERATION TO DOUBLE CAPACITY OF REFINERY. PLANS HAVE BEEN APPROVED TO CONSTRUCT BITUMEN COMPLEX WHICH WILL PROCESS ADDITIONAL 250,000 MT PER ANNUM OF VENEZUELAN
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HEAVY CRUDE.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOIC WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO DELEGATION VISIT PROPOSED BY REFERENCE. IVORY COAST HAS STRONG INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST INDUSTRY AND ALREADY HAS CONSIDERABLE INVESTMENT IN COASTAL AREA, WHERE BEACHES BECOMING INCREASINGLY FOULED BY MARITIME OIL

POLLUTION. MAJOR TANKER ACCIDENT ALONG COAST BETWEEN ABIDJAN AND GHANA BORDER COULD BE DISASTROUS FOR THESE INVESTMENTS. POTENTIAL POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA INCREASED BY FACT THAT IT IS ALSO SITE OF OFF-SHORE OIL EXPLORATION.

3. AS EVIDENCE OF GOIC INTEREST IN MARINE POLLUTION, EMBASSY NOTES THAT INTER-MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN ABIDJAN IN JANUARY 1977 TO DISCUSS REPORT BY UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY ON POLLUTION OF THE GULF OF GUINEA. AT THIS CONFERENCE, FRANCOIS DACOURY TABLEY, GOIC MINISTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE, EXPRESSED THE WORRY OF THE GOIC OVER INCREASING MARINE POLLUTION PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY THOSE EMANATING FROM INTERNATIONAL MARITIME TRAFFIC.

4. WHILE EMBASSY IS OF OPINION THAT DELEGATION VISIT WOULD BE USEFUL, WE WISH TO NOTE THAT JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST ARE VACATION MONTHS IN IVORY COAST. EMBASSY SUGGESTS, THEREFORE, THAT DELEGATION COME IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER WHEN CHANCES ARE GREATER OF MEETING WITH INTERESTED HIGH-LEVEL MEMBERS OF GOIC. STEARNS UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WATER POLLUTION, OIL SPILLS, CARGO SHIPS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D770222-0869
Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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